



**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
CONSTRUCTION CODES COORDINATING BOARD**  
c/o DCRA – 1100 4th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20024

**CODE CHANGE PROPOSAL FORM**

PAGE 1 OF 2

**CODE:** Existing Building      **SECTION NO:** 704.2 & 704.3      **SUBCOMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO** ExBC-EB-7-1-13  
**PROPOSING SUBCOMMITTEE:** Existing Building    **CHAIR:** Fetterman    **PHONE:** 202 625 2525      **E-mail:** fetterman-dc@att.net  
**DATES OF PROPOSAL:** 3-27-2012      **CCCCB PRESENTATION:** 4-12-2012      **CCCCB APPROVAL:** 4-19-2012

CHECK ONE      ☐ *Revise section to read as follows:*      ☐ *Delete section and substitute the following:*  
☒ *Add new section to read as follows:*      ☐ *Delete section without substitution.*

TYPE ALL TEXT IN 12-POINT TIMES NEW ROMAN FONT

~~LINE THROUGH TEXT TO BE DELETED~~ (highlight text, under Format, click font and check strikethrough)

UNDERLINE TEXT TO BE ADDED

Use additional sheets of the form, if necessary.

See next page.

Anticipated impact of code change on cost of construction (CHECK ONE)

☐ *Increase*      ☐ *Decrease*      ☒ *Negligible*      ☐ *Unknown*

*Per 1,000 SF single-family dwelling*      *to*  
*Per 1,000SF of commercial building*      *to*

**JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGE:**

Please reference one or more of the criteria required

- ☐ To address a critical life/safety, health, general welfare need.  
☒ To address a specific District of Columbia policy or statute  
☐ For consistency with federal, or with reference to the Metro DC area (MD, VA) codes  
☐ Address a unique character issue in the District of Columbia  
☐ Correction of errors and omissions  
☐ Other (explain)

704.2 permits continued use of existing corridor plenums, a condition found in a number of existing DC buildings. 704.3 expressly allows corridors to be reduced in width when this is done to improve fire resistance of enclosing walls. This code change was labeled EX-7-1-13 when approved by the TAG during this code cycle and labeled EX-6-1-11, was previously approved as a part of 2011 12 DCMR J, on 9-16-2010.



## CHAPTER 7            ALTERATIONS-LEVEL 1

### SECTION

704    Means of Egress

705    Accessibility

## 704    MEANS OF EGRESS

*Insert new Sections 704.2 and 704.3 to the Existing Building Code to read as follows:*

**704.2 Use of Exit and Exit Access Enclosures.** Exits and exit access corridors shall comply with the *Building Code* Section 1018.5.

### **Exception:**

Existing exit access corridors that serve areas undergoing Level 1 alterations shall be allowed to be used as air return plenums where the following four conditions are verified:

1. The existing HVAC system already uses the corridor as a return plenum.
2. The HVAC system remains as existing, except for rearrangement of terminal branches, relocation of supply diffusers, or replacement in kind of equipment.
3. The transfers from the altered space, to the corridor, shall be equipped with an approved smoke damper arranged to close upon detection of smoke on either side of the transfer.
4. The corridor is not an exit discharge.

**704.3 Allowance for Fire Resistance Upgrading:** When improving the fire resistance rating of the enclosure of stairways, exit access corridors or exit passageways complying with the *Building Code* Section 1005, a tolerance of up to 1 1/2-inches (38 mm) shall be allowed in the minimum width of those elements of egress. When improving the fire resistance rating of a wall assembly on one side of stairways, exit access corridors or exit passageways, a tolerance of up to 3/4 inches (19 mm) shall be allowed in the minimum width of those elements of egress.